

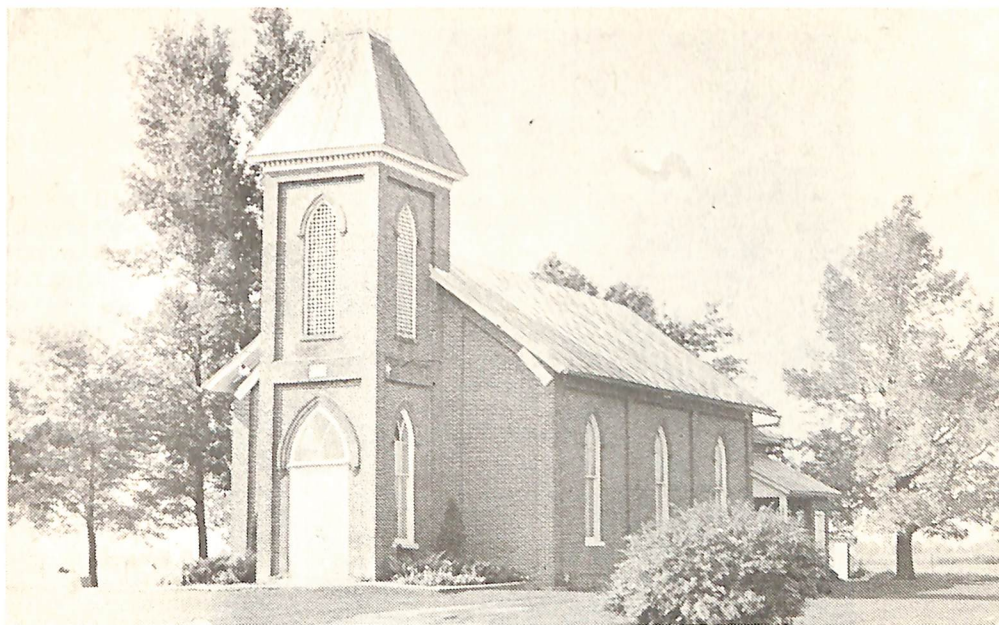
*100th Anniversary
of the
West Franklin
United Methodist
Church
1875 - 1975
and
History
of the
Surrounding Area*

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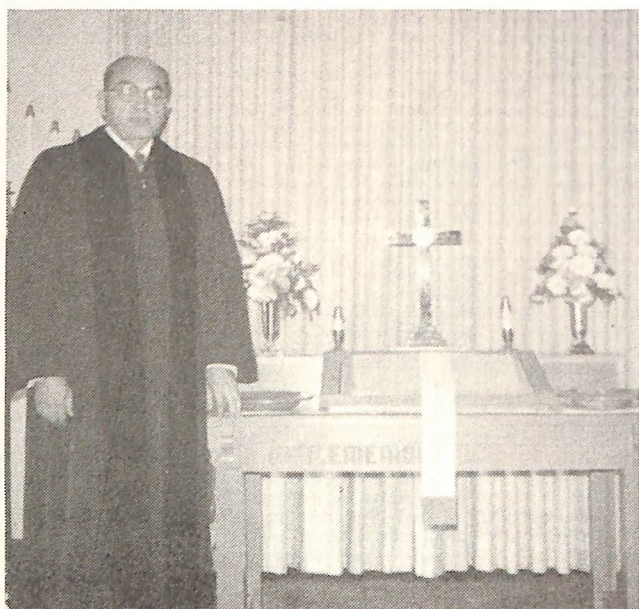
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WEST FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





Our present minister--Rev. Gerald E. Mallott



WEST FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
1875-1975

We have attempted, in a few short months, to compile a hundred-year history of our church. There are many important facts and dates missing, but we have tried to assemble the highlights. We regret that many who could have made it more complete are no longer with us. We hope this much may be preserved for coming generations. Each generation builds on, and enjoys, the discoveries, inventions, and experiences of those preceding them, and many times not by any initiative of their own. The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future. We are thankful to Almighty God for our heritage.



Back row--Lois Borton, Gladys Hershiser,
Donna Meyers-chairman, Betty Vanderveer,
Front row--Vera Bowman, Ina Hutchison

*Aunt Golda's
sister-in-law*

OFFICERS FOR 1975

Lay Leader--Mr. Gene Schaffner
Council Board Chairman--Ray Borton
Council Board Vice-Chairperson--Mrs. Betty Vanderveer
Church Treasurer--Raymond Coy
Benevolence Treasurer--Raymond Coy
Membership Secretary--Mrs. Vera Bowman
Superintendent Study Program--Mrs. Ina Hutchison
Lay Member--Mrs. Elizabeth Chester
District Steward--Orville Gunn
Representative Methodist Union--Mr. & Mrs. Charles Shilling
Organist--Mrs. Vera Bowman
Choir Director--Mrs. Joan Gunn
Church Occupations--Mrs. Sue Schaffner
President UMW--Mrs. Mildred Coy
President UMYF--Miss Sandra Johnson
Church Historian--Mrs. Vera Bowman
Children's Coordinator--Mrs. Roberta Barnhart
Youth Coordinator--Mrs. Vivian Johnson
Adult Coordinator--Mrs. Joan Gunn
Family Coordinator--Mr. & Mrs. Guy Vanderveer
Camping Coordinator--Mrs. Vivian Johnson
Education Chairperson--Mrs. Donna Schaffner
Evangelism Chairperson--Mrs. Mildred Daso
Missions Chairperson--Mrs. Mildred Coy
Social Concerns Chairperson--Mrs. Mildred Coy
Worship Chairperson--Mrs. Gladys Hershiser
Ecumenical Affairs Chairperson--Mrs. Gladys Hershiser
Trustees--Gary Barnhart
James Baltosser
Mrs. Marjorie Hartman
Mrs. Donna Meyers
Richard Jacoby
Marvin Schaffner
Howard Baltosser
Mrs. Lois Borton
Pastor-Parish Relations Committee--Mrs. Vera Bowman
Mrs. Joan Gunn
Mrs. Gladys Hershiser
Mrs. Peggy Hutchison
Mrs. Vivian Johnson
Gene Schaffner
Communion Stewards--Mrs. Betty Chase
Miss Sandra Johnson
Finance Committee--Orville Gunn
Ray Borton
Raymond Coy
Gene Schaffner
Gary Barnhart
Nominations Committee--Mrs. Hazel Baltosser
Mr. Howard Baltosser
Mrs. Isabel Bigelow
Mrs. Lois Borton
Mrs. Mildred Cotter
Mrs. Ina Hutchison
Mrs. Roberta Barnhart
Richard Jacoby
Mrs. Betty Vanderveer



Gary Barnhart, Chairman of Trustees
 Raymond Coy, Church Treasurer
 Gene Schaffner, Lay Leader
 Ray Borton, Council Board Chairman
 Ina Hutchison, Sunday School Supt



Vera Bowman has played the piano and
 organ for many years.

METHODISM

John and Charles Wesley arrived at Savannah, Georgia in 1735. Soon after this, they established, there, the first Sunday School in America. It was, in fact, the first in the world, as this school was started nearly fifty years previous to the one first commenced by Robert Parkes at Gloucester, England, in 1784.

The first local preacher of the Methodist Church in America was Philip Embury, who came to New York City in 1760. In 1765, he formed the first class and established the first Methodist Church, which consisted of himself, wife, and Barbary Heck, in the new world. The first Methodist Conference in America convened at Philadelphia in June, 1773.

Methodism was first introduced into Ohio in 1791. In 1798, Ohio was attached to a number of circuits in Pennsylvania, and it formed into a Conference containing 350 members, presided over by Amos G. Thompson. William McLenahan was missionary for Ohio.

The Western Conference was formed in 1802. The Ohio Conference was constituted at Chillicothe in 1812, which contained Ohio, Kentucky, nearly all of Indiana, West Virginia, and part of Pennsylvania. Perhaps the first preaching within the present limits of Williams and Fulton Counties was done by Elder Garitt, formerly of Wauseon and Toledo. He told that he had preached throughout this part of the country when this was but a howling wilderness, when the streams were destitute of bridges and the only roads were the Indian trails. The Circuit extended from Detroit to Fort Wayne. Even by preaching once every weekday and three times on Sunday, it took him 23 days to reach all the points of holding services. This was accomplished on a salary of \$125 a year. Toledo was then a town of only a few shanties. This is supposed to have been in the year of 1832. In those early days, whenever three or four of the Methodist faith settled near one another, they were immediately organized into a class, and a class leader was appointed.



Our oldest member
Anna Borton
97 years



Mrs. Bowman's Sunday School Class



back row-Esther Gunn, two unknowns, Blanch Raymond, Irene Raymond, Ida Gunn, Charles Shilling, Harold Raymond
front row- unknown, Pauline Lehman, Dale Wagner, Leslie & James Hutchison

CHURCHES AT MASTERS CORNERS

At one time you could stand at Masters Corners (present Fulton County Roads L and 27) and see four churches. The Methodist, on the southwest corner of the intersection, and the Quaker (Society of Friends Meeting House), farther south on the east side, are still standing. The Presbyterian, now marked only by the cemetery, stood 80 rods north of the corners, and the Baptist Church stood to the east, across from the present Lee Hershiser farm.

The first Methodist Church was built in 1849, although meetings had been held since 1836. In 1875 the new church was built, and this is the only one of the four still open every Sunday.

The friends group consisting of Bortons, Clifftons, Masons and others, who had come here from New Jersey in the late 1830's, settled in this vicinity, with the help of Joseph Bates. They had been holding meetings in their homes until 1850, when brothers John, Job, Nathan, Samuel, and Benjamin Borton paid all of the expenses for William Ely, Sr. to build their Meeting House for \$250. The Preparative Meeting was established the 11th of the fifth month, 1859, as a branch of the Battle Creek Monthly Meeting. The first one buried in the graveyard was Reuben, son of John Borton, who died the 14th of the fifth month, 1847.

The Baptists had been meeting in homes and school houses until 1852, when they obtained land from Harvey Miller, across the road from P. R. Fisher's house. This church was dedicated in 1853, but it was not finished until 1855. Joshua Conoway was the contractor. The church was very prosperous until the close of the war. In 1872 or 1873, Ann Eliza Smith was frequently the only person out at their meeting. They dismissed her for communing with the Methodists, and then there were many times when no one came. Often their preacher, Rev. Briggs, came all the way from Fayette and would not even find the house opened. He would wait awhile. If it was cold, he would go to P. R. Fisher's home and get warm, and then he would return home, not a soul having come to the church but himself. In 1874, Deacon Ely and Elder Prentice undertook to move the church to Fayette but failed. Nothing remains to mark the location.

Also, in 1852, the Mount Salem Presbyterian Church was built on land given by Benjamin Persing and J. H. Fisher. The contract was taken by William Ely for \$500. P. R. Fisher hewed the timber for this church, as well as a part of that used in the Methodist Church. The church was dedicated on December 5, 1852. The Dedictory Sermon was preached by Rev. John M. Crabbs.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Muddy roads - The old sheds for horses and buggies along the south and west sides of the church - The Ladies' Aid selling vanilla extract - Having to wear four buckle boots and lay boards down in the church basement to build a fire - Canning for Flower Hospital - Delicious suppers and socials, open to the public, and held at members' homes - Old time Revival meetings - Circuit riders - The beautiful squares of metal ceiling in the church - Della Guy's Whippet car with the rumble seat. She used to pick up neighbor children and bring them to services - Practice for children's programs - Babies being baptized and having their names placed on the cradle roll in the back room - The truly inspired plays and skits that Virginia Hachtel presented - Carlton Daso playing beautiful hymns on his musical saw - Raymond Coy and his harmonica - Carlton was Santa for many years and his arrival was always heralded by the sound of sleigh bells at the church entrance - The looks of joy and anticipation on the faces of the children - The curious and unusual gifts often received by some of the men - The Livewire Class parties on New Year's Eve in the Church basement - The class picnics at Clear Lake and later at Leroy and Evelyn Leininger's; what fun in and around their beautiful pond - The women preparing noon lunches for children at Zone School - The many wedding showers - The Livewire Class Pepsi wagon at the Fair in Montpelier - Making noodles - Halloween parties - Charley Flory and Lee Hershiser dressing as women and being hard to recognize - Donna Meyers and her children attired in authentic very old clothing at the church's 95th Anniversary - When there were short pews on both sides of the rostrum and classes were held there - One of the teachers was Edna Stoltz - When Millie Borton taught the Young People's Class up by the piano - She had two long rows full - When we had Church before Sunday School - When the Livewire Class had monthly meetings and they were well attended - Our Ladies Quartet singing on Bryan radio station - The Bible Class pot luck dinners - Clif Hartman's ability to drink scalding hot coffee - The delicious dinner served at the home of Louise Shoemaker in November, 1935 - The vocal solos by Irma Grob - Mae Hershiser's beautiful gardens and her simple home made remedies for almost any ailment--they usually worked, too - The Rally Month programs and Family Nights - George Gunn almost always arrived at church early and sang until time for services - Mabel Schaffner would occasionally lead the whole Sunday School group in singing "motion" songs - The boys and girls from the class in the back room walking along the foundation ledge along the north side of the church to get to the front of the church for practicing programs -

WEST FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This was the first church built in Fulton County. It is located at Masters' Corners which is a county crossroad located in the western part of Franklin Township, Fulton County. It is formed by the intersecting of the Angola Road and the angling road running north from Defiance through Evansport and Stryker and then north by east to the Gorham Township line. There is evidence on the old Lily place that this road was at one time extended further, no doubt to Adrian.

Masters' Corners received its name from Ezekiel Masters who settled nearby in the spring of 1845, and who soon after formed what is known as the Masters' Society of the M. E. Church.

In 1847, they had commenced taking subscriptions to build a house of worship. The trustees were Alanson Pike, Michael Amsbaugh, Nathan Oliver, Lewis Newcomer, Peter Hagerman, Benjamin Hagerman, and Ezekiel Masters. The building committee members were Alanson Pike, Lewis Newcomer, and Ezekiel Masters. Lewis Newcomer took the contract for \$630, but he claimed he lost money on it. J. H. Fisher and Ezekiel Masters gave the timber, and Ezekiel Masters drew it on the grounds and gave and delivered the foundation stones. He also furnished all of the poplar lumber, delivered for \$6 per thousand feet.

In 1848, the Bates School House was built, and the Methodists and Presbyterians held their meetings there. In the latter part of 1848, an exhorter, Charles Wheeler, and Ezekiel Masters visited all the members of the church and those who did not belong to any church. They talked and prayed with them, and they told them they were going to have a watch meeting and commence a protracted effort. They urged all who would, to come. The Friday preceding the new year was observed as a day of fasting and prayer. At the Bates School House, at the beginning of the year 1849, there started a revival that lasted over four years. At nearly every meeting there were conversions and additions to the church. The people came five and six miles with ox teams, through bitter cold weather, to attend these services.

Prior to this, there were no officers in the church, except one serving as Steward, Recording Steward, and District Steward, besides Classleader and Sunday School Superintendent nearly all the time.

There were classes formed near Masters' Corners as early as 1836 and 1838. Among the first class leaders were Henry and John Lutes, James and Lowell Smith, and Thomas and James Shorthill.

The early meetings were held at the cabins of John J. Hagerman and John M. McLaughlin until 1849, after which they were held for a number of years in the Ayers School House. It is likely that John J. Hagerman preached the first sermon in Brady Township.

Also preaching were Wesley Brock, Rev. Thorp, Austin Coleman, and Rev. Parker. Elder James was perhaps the first presiding elder. The circuit at this time had nearly sixty classes, with a preaching place at each class. There were at this time about twenty local preachers and two circuit preachers, who were sent by the Conference. They preached every day through the week and three times on Sunday. They also preached at night, during the long nights of fall, winter, and spring. The circuit, known as the Bryan Circuit, embraced Williams County, parts of Defiance and Lucas Counties, and a few appointments in Indiana.

Some of the appointments were held at the old Asher Ely School House. The Class Book had fifty names of persons who were scattered over a territory of six miles square. In 1846, John J. Hagerman departed this life, being the first local preacher to pass away. The same year Joseph Powell came, and the meetings were held at the Asher Ely School House until 1847, when a subscription was taken to have preaching at West Unity, at different homes, and at Alvord's, now Alvordton. The subscription was to be paid, provided the Conference would give Sunday preaching at West Unity at 10 a.m., at Masters' Corners at 12:30 p.m., at Amsbaugh's at 3:00 p.m., and at Alvord's at 5:00 p.m. during the long days and at night during the short days of winter. There has been Sunday preaching at Masters' Corners ever since.

This church was dedicated on December 3, 1849, with Presiding Elder, George W. Breckenridge, taking for his sermon the words of our Blessed Saviour to Peter, "Lovest Thou Me?" There were over four hundred that were converted through the labors of the preachers and lay members of the M. E. Church, known as Masters Society. Only a few had gone back to the services of sin. The number of members at one time required four class leaders. Some of the early members were: Ezekiel Masters and wife, Joseph Powell and wife, Sarah Oliver, Deletha Hall, Cornelius Powers and wife, William Thompson, E. Lyons, Henry Smith and wife, John Shafer and wife, George Hoover, Nathan Oliver, Frederick Crumrine and wife, Samuel Borton and wife, O. S. Ely and wife, L. G. Ely and wife, Levi Kump and wife, John Shilling and wife, Elwood Tule, and others.

In the spring of 1875, the old church was pulled down. The next summer the present beautiful brick edifice was erected in its place, at a cost of \$3,500. The building committee was O. S. Ely, Levi Kump, and John Shilling. William Gill, of West Unity, was the architect and contractor. The church was dedicated on September 12, 1875, with Leroy A. Belt, presiding elder, conducting the services.

There are several streams in the area of Masters' Corners. They are all tributaries of Tiffin River, or Bean Creek, as it is more commonly known. Thus, well watered as it is, the value of the land for agricultural and grazing purposes is greatly enhanced.

The fertile soil is mostly clay, or clay loam, with an occasional subsoil of gravel. Heavy timber, mostly the hard wood varieties of walnut, butternut, hickory, the various kinds of oak, beech, maple, yellow poplar, whitewood, white ash, and elm, covered the area. Less generally distributed were buckeye, sycamore, wild cherry, ironwood, and dog-wood. The shrubs were the hazel, blackberry, huckleberry, Juneberry, hackberry, and spice.

Brady was set off from Springfield township on March 7, 1836. There is some speculation as to the origin of the name. The most plausible account is through the influence of Gilbert Dunscomb. The township was named in perpetuation of the name, and in honor of Captain Samuel Brady, whose exploits are so well known to everyone familiar with the pioneer history of this part of the western country. Brady is in the middle of the eastern tier of townships of Williams County. It was originally six miles square; but at the formation of Fulton County, two tiers of sections were taken from the east side, thus reducing the area of the township to twenty-four square miles. The township was noted in early times for its abundance of wild animals and was a favorite hunting ground for the Indians for many years after the cession of the land to the Whites. By general consent, they were permitted to make annual visits, which they seemed to greatly enjoy. There were bears, panthers, wolves and wildcats in great numbers, while deer and wild turkeys furnished the principal meat foods to the early settlers. The larger wild animals were of course for many years a source of annoyance and danger.



Sunday School picnic in Perry's woods (1919)
Bertha Raymond, Mae Hershiser, Jessie Vanderveer,
Bessie Cook, Maud Hutchison, & teacher L. G. Ely



back row--Vriginia Shilling, Vera Schaffner,
Grace Raymond, & Orville Gunn
front row--Mildred Borton, unknown, Thelma Shoemaker,
& Lillian Altaffer



Mina Gunn, Grace Shilling,
Alice Gunn, Edna Hinkle,
Bessie Cotter, Goldie Ross,
Louise Shoemaker & Jennie Raymond



Mrs. Barnes' Sunday School Class

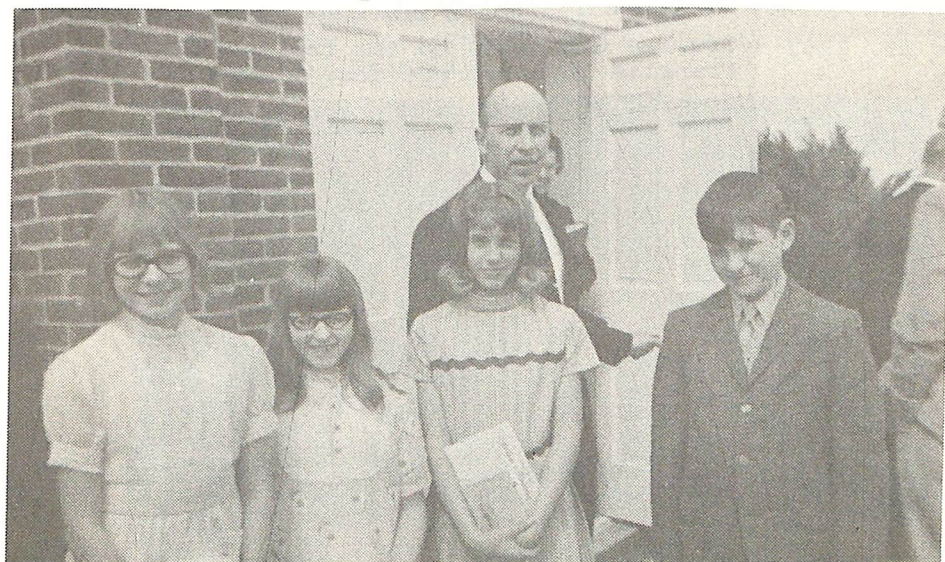
MINISTERS 1855-1975

September to September

1855-56 William Thatcher
John Crabbe (West Unity Circuit)
1856-57 A. B. Poe
1857-58 S. L. Roberts
George Money
1858-59 S. L. Roberts
1859-61 I. R. Henderson
1861-62 T. M. Barkdull
1862-64 H. VanGundy
1864-66 August Hollington
1866-68 J. Fegtley
1868-69 John Poucher
P. P. Pope
1869-71 A. Coleman
1871-72 J. R. Colgan
1872-73 C. W. Tanneyhill
1873-75 B. S. Rowand
1875-77 John Poucher
1877-78 Valentine Staley (6 months)
J. C. Orcut (3 months)
1878-80 L. E. Prentiss
1880-82 Jesse Carr
1882-83 Henry Brown
1883-85 Solomon Lindsay
1885-87 T. W. Brake
1887-89 M. Gascoigne
1889-93 A. B. Leonard (1890 Archbold Circuit)
1893-94 Frank M. Money
1894-95 Grant M. McNeely
1895-97 George F. Kinnear
1897-99 John A. Lucy (West Unity Circuit)
1899-1900 Frederick K. Gamble (Alvordton Circuit)
1900-01 Frank M. Money (Pulaski Circuit)
1901-02 Benjamin F. Gordon
1902-03 Edmund G. Brumbaugh (West Unity Circuit)
1903-04 J. A. Lucy (Archbold Circuit)
1904-05 Roscoe J. Beard
1905-07 George J. Hartman
1907-09 William S. Brackney (Tedrow Circuit)
1909-10 Supply Ministers
1910-14 Frank M. Money (West Franklin not on circuit--supply minister)
1914-17 A. D. Miller (Tedrow Circuit, local deacon)
1917-18 D. C. DeGreat
1918-19 Witted
1919-21 E. D. Baker
1921-23 E. L. Arthur
1923-24 E. S. Wilson

1924-25 I. T. Andrews
 1925-28 P. R. Fox
 1928-29 Charles A. Daugherty
 1929-31 W. A. Piper
 1931-35 W. H. Nungester
 1935-43 A. C. Rainsberger
 1943-50 Glen Robison
 1950-52 W. H. Nofcier
 1952-59 E. E. Roberts
 1959-62 Robert Rector
 1962-63 Clifford Black (Pulaski)
 1963-65 Bruce Irwin
 1965-67 Ralph Solida
 1967-68 Reuben Eicher
 Mrs. Catherine Nason (July-August)
 1968-70 Benjamin Mehrling (September to June)
 1970-71 Richard Batzler (July to June)
 1971 Miles Strupl (June)
 1971-72 Victor Hayes (July to November)
 1972-74 Vanentine Derr (December to April)
 1974- Gerald E. Mallott (May to)

Sixty-seven ministers, deacons, plus supply ministers have served West Franklin since 1855. Two Roberts, two Moneys, two Valentines, one lady. West Franklin served with West Unity, Pulaski, Archbold, Alvordton, Tedrow, and Fayette Circuits.



Joining church in 1971 with Rev. Batzler;
 Pamela Meyers, Linda Vanderveer,
 Mona Schaffner & Edward Johnson

LAND TRANSACTIONS

- March 21, 1844-----Charles and Mary Bird sold to Ezekiel Masters
62.62 acres (E $\frac{1}{2}$) for \$1,000.
- March 21, 1844-----Charles Bird sold to Ezekiel Masters 63.42
acres (W $\frac{1}{2}$) for \$1,000.
- March 22, 1844-----T. M. Axtell sold to Ezekiel Masters 64.40
acres (E $\frac{1}{2}$) for \$300.
- June 25, 1849-----Ezekiel Masters sold to M. E. Church 1/3 acre
for \$50.
- April 9, 1870-----Ezekiel Masters sold to Jacob Shenk 61.75 acres
for \$13,500.
- September 6, 1873---Ezekiel Masters sold to Trustees of M. E. Church
2/3 acre for \$75.
- June 28, 1881-----Jacob Shenk sold to West Franklin Township
cemetery trustees (30') 2.58 acres for \$220.
- March 31, 1883-----Richard and Mary Hollington sold to trustees of
West Franklin Township cemetery $\frac{1}{4}$ acre for \$50.
- November 13, 1967---Orville Gunn sold to the trustees of West
Franklin Township cemetery 1 acre for \$1,332.



Sunday School party at Isaac Bowman's (1910)
back row-Leroy Blaker, Ed Raymond, Will Winzeler,
Harvey & Frank Bowman; front row-Ferne Ely, Vernie
Bowman, Ola Winzeler, Jennie Gunn, Hazel McKibbin,
Henen Ely, Mabel Gunn, & Mary Bowman

- 1890--Fayette was made a station and West Franklin attached to Archbold circuit.
- 1873--West Franklin on circuit with Fayette. Others on this circuit were Burlington and Chesterfield. J. S. Shilling and S. B. Borton were on the finance committee.
- 1873--First Quarterly Conference held at West Franklin on December 27.
- 1874--Trustees of the church were O. S. Ely, John Shilling, J. Powell, L. Crum, G. Hoover, S. B. Borton, John Shaffer, John T. Borton, and Nat Oliver. Title good; insurance none; expenditures none; and debts none.
- 1876--The first minister in our new brick church was Rev. Poucher.
- 1874--Notes from Rev. B. S. Rowand's pastor's report on August 22. Quote: "The Lord has blessed me wonderfully in preaching a full salvation to the people. I regret that I have not seen more fruits from my labors this year. I am truly trusting that precious fruit will spring up from the seed that has been sown."
- 1875--In pastor's report of May 15 it states that the old church has been taken away and a new brick one is taking its place. It will be 64' by 32'. The Sunday School is in a prosperous condition at West Franklin.



Blake & Charles Shilling, Janet, Jane, Betsy, Ed & Bill



Vivian & Rolland Johnson, James
Jeanne, Daryl & Roger



Catherine & William Gunn & children,
Jennie, James, Mable, George & Maude

EARLY SETTLERS

Asher Ely, Sr. and wife, Catherine, came to this area in 1839 and built a log house. Their farm was later owned by Jacob Schenk and now, by Orville Gunn. Asher Ely also owned the land lying directly south on the old state line, which is now owned by Ray Borton. He was the first blacksmith near the Corners and made a great many cowbells which he sold to the early settlers.

The Elys had twelve children. Obed S. and Asher, Jr. both lived on portions of the old farm. Obed S. married Mahala Masters and was a leading member of the M. E. Church, being the Sunday School superintendent for many years. Asher, Jr. first married Martha Borton and attended the Friends meetings. His second wife was Phebe Marlow. Asher Ely, Sr. had a daughter, Phebe, who married Daniel Axtel. The old Axtel farm is now owned by Reuben Hachtel.

Asher Ely, Sr. died Nov. 1, 1849, at the age of 60 years, 11 months, and 18 days. He was the first loss in the Presbyterian Church. His widow died June 5, 1872, being 79 years, 9 months, and 15 days old. At the time of her death there were living, 11 children, 59 grandchildren, and 33 great grandchildren.

The pioneer in Franklin Township was Joseph Bates who entered in 1832 in what was then Williams County. He was a noted hunter and a man of broad and accurate knowledge of the country. He was born in Vermont in 1787 and went to Canada in early manhood. There he married Harriet Dodge by whom he had eight children. From Canada, the Bates family went originally to Richland County, Ohio.

In February, 1833, the Bates family arrived at their new land. For three days they lived in the wagon they had brought with them, while Joseph and his sons built a cabin. They placed branches from the ground to the top of the wagon as their shelter.

Many early settlers came to Joseph Bates for help and guidance in locating suitable homesites. He often took his hired man and helped others for days at a time. Bates also raised the first grain in what is now Franklin Township, Fulton County.

In 1833 he built a large frame tavern near the confluence of Bates and Avers Runs and called it the "J. Bates Inn." Many early settlers and western homesteaders stayed at the inn. It was destroyed by fire on December 30, 1885.

In 1845 Mrs. Bates died, and the following year Joseph married the widow of Joseph Borton. He moved to Iowa in 1861.

THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE

The history of the trouble which arose over establishment of a permanent boundary line between the present states of Ohio and Michigan should be of special interest to the people of Williams County. Upon the decision and adjustment of the difficulty depended the question, whether the territory now embraced in the townships of Northwest, Bridgewater, Madison, and Millcreek should be a part and parcel of the Buckeye State, or whether they should be Wolverine's.

At one time this boundary dispute threatened to assume the magnitude of civil war between the states of Ohio and Michigan. The question of boundary between these two states antedated the admission of the state of Ohio into the Union. Due to the well-meaning, though misguided, blunder of Herodotus, the peace of the whole country at one time was at stake.

It took a number of years of controversies and concessions to settle this dispute, which was hindered by attacks on surveying parties, to mention one obstacle.

In June, 1836, the present boundary line of Ohio and Michigan was established by the United States Circuit Court. Thus, the angry strife, resulting from an early geographical error, was settled, and the two states have remained on friendly terms since that date. However, the city of Toledo has prospered by being on the boundary line, where it can reap the benefit of commerce made by canals to Cincinnati and Indiana.

At one time the land on which the church stands was Michigan territory. The south line of the territory involved is a half mile south of the church, and both east and west, every road has a jog.



Sunday School class picnic at the
Ray Borton pond
David Vanderveer, unknown, Mark Burkhard,
Wanda & Alice Jean Leininger



Edgar Hershiser, John Graf, Lyla Hartman,
Lola Bowman, Dorothy Bowman, Ronald Hartman,
Grace Shilling-teacher, & Elaine Bowman



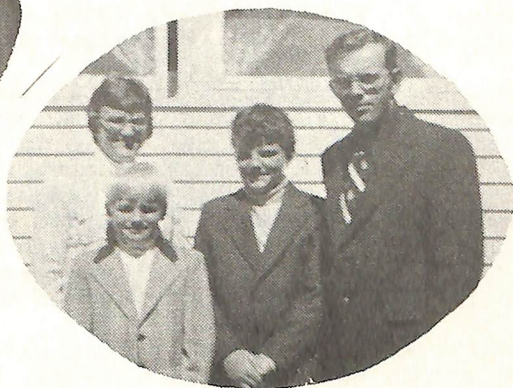
Patti, Peggy, Edward
Sandra, Barbara
& Rolland Johnson



Mildred & Carlton Daso,
Dee Ann, Carolyn, & Cheryl



Lois & Ray Borton & children,
Joyce & Claude Schoonover,
Harold & Arleen Borton



Brenda & Richard Jacoby
Scott & Jeffrey

GRAVEYARDS AND CEMETERIES

The first person to die near the Corners was John Ackeson who was passing through this country in 1836 in search of land and stopped at David Severence's to stay the night. It was very warm, and he drank a large quantity of cold spring water which, supposedly, chilled him. In the night, he took suddenly sick and lived only three or four days. He was buried on the eastern part of the Severence farm.

An old graveyard known as the Asher graveyard was located on the R. Hachtel farm. At one time this farm was owned by T. M. Axtel and at another time, by Asher Ely. Asher Bird, son of Asher Bird, Sr., died October 15, 1843, and was the first buried there. Graves in this yard were later moved, with some being taken to the Presbyterian Cemetery north of Masters Corners.

The Quaker Graveyard was started in 1847 on land given by Job Borton. The first buried there was Reuben, son of John and Elizabeth Borton, who died May 14, 1847. Isaac Borton, born in 1776, died in 1844, and his grave is in the front row of the Friends Cemetery near the north end. There seems to be no record as to whether or not he was buried elsewhere first.

The Presbyterian Graveyard was not started until 1855 and was located on land obtained from John Fisher. P. R. Fisher and Benjamin Persing hollowed out the first grave which was the last resting place of Albe Thompson who died June 16, 1855, at the age of 20 years and 10 days.

Ezekiel Masters married Mary Oliver in 1845. Their little son, Willie, was the first to be laid to rest in the M. E. Graveyard in the woods. He died Sept. 22, 1849, being only 1 year, 8 months, and 1 day old. P. R. Fisher helped dig his grave.

An association formed in 1881, purchased a lot from the northeast corner of Jacob Schenk's farm, obtained control of the old M. E. Graveyard, and formed the whole into what is now known as the Franklin Cemetery. The first one buried in the new part of the cemetery was a fourteen-day-old daughter of John and Ella Hollington, who died August 16, 1881. The first buried in the old and the first in the new part of this cemetery both died on the same farm but not in the same house as some have supposed. Little Willie Masters died in the old log house of Mr. and Mrs. Masters.

Ezekiel Masters and his second wife had 15 children. After leaving our church, he and his family moved to Pioneer where he died on October 24, 1886, at the age of 69 years, 10 months, and 11 days. The Masters' graves are on the east side of the road at the north end.



Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Bowman



Olin & Helen Borton, Margaret & Maurice

SCHOOLS

In the very early days children received their schooling at home. When a teacher came through he would go from home to home to teach, until a building became available for a school. Later, school districts were formed. Some of the school houses were moved from one place to another, and new names were sometimes given. The joining of districts also caused moving of schools.

Joseph Bates gave his first log cabin to be used as a private school for the neighboring families and as a house of worship on Sunday. The Methodists and Presbyterians both held services in it. Samantha Crandall was the first teacher in 1836. It was with difficulty that she went to and from school having to cross Bean Creek on a felled log that straddled it. In addition, she "had to wade through swales and water." Her mother conducted the school the next year, and Jane Brundridge succeeded her. The Land Deed states that on August 14, 1843, the old Bates School was owned by William Ayers and was listed as District No. 2 with John McLaughlin, George Ely, and Benjamin Borton as directors.

Asher Ely School District was organized in 1845 with a log cabin having been raised for the purpose since the early church meetings had been held in the Ely home. The school house stood in the woods about 80 rods from any road. The first teacher here was Augustus Porter. Both the early Methodists and Presbyterians used this as a house of worship for a long time.

The Ayers School was a log house built in 1840, on land later owned by John Shilling. Miss Jane Brundridge from west of Montpelier was the first teacher. George Ely was employed to teach the second term, but before the time arrived to begin the school, he gave up the contract and employed Benjamin Pickle to take his place.

There was a McLaughlin School about a mile east of the West Franklin Church of Christ which later became part of the John Mason School. The school house was erected in 1847 on land leased from him. The first teacher was Miss Catharine Radabaugh. The first directors were P. R. Fisher, Peter Vandavere, and Bethuel Borton.

In 1852, a school house was built at Hamer by Thomas McGowan and Robert Masters. Miss Hannah Masters taught the first school. In 1877, it was replaced by a brick structure built by Henry Clay. Lauren V. Crum was the first teacher in it.

Changing the boundaries of the school district necessitated the moving of the school house in the case of the Bates School on Jacob Schenk's farm. In the fall of 1851, the building was put on runners with 20 yoke to each runner, and it was drawn down opposite John Fisher's house. Miss Hattie Wilber taught two terms of

school in the house while it stood here in the road on runners. During the same time, it was used on the Sabbath Day as a house of worship for the Presbyterians and Methodists. In 1853, it was brought down to the Corners and placed on the northwest corner. Mr. C. V. Wagley was the first teacher here. The house was used for school purposes until 1869 when L. G. Ely bought it and converted it into a corn crib.

In 1867, the Bates and Mason districts were united and a new school house was built in 1868 on land leased from P. R. Fisher. George Sparks was the first teacher.

Cliffton School was known as District No. 1, and as we all remember, it stood a mile south and a little more than a mile west of the Corners. It was a brick school built in the woods west of the corner on the north side of the road. Its earlier name was the Loral School, and it stood on a hill a quarter mile south on the old Cliffton farm. Miss Julia M. Linsley was the teacher, and the term was thirteen weeks in length. In 1852, the directors were R. G. Ely, John Borton, and John R. Cliffton. In an old county history we find they had sixteen teachers from 1852 until 1862. A new frame building costing \$290 replaced the old school in 1862. O. S. Ely and H. W. Crum took the contract and erected the school house. From 1862 until 1882, there were thirty teachers listed, which included several neighborhood names.

Later, when the brick building north of the road was built, the \$290 frame one was moved south to the road and attached to the west side of the Cliffton Cider Mill. Samuel Cliffton eventually moved the business, including the Loral School House, to the north edge of West Unity where it still stands in 1975, on the west side of Lyle Mann's Scrap Yard.

Mary Hutchison Thomas was in the eighth grade the year the school closed, in 1918. The brick school house was torn down the next year or two, and the bricks were used for the library wall in the new high school in West Unity. Ethel Stipe was the teacher.

The first SELECT SCHOOL was held in the Presbyterian Church for three or four years. It was taught by Rev. Luke Dorland, who settled on the Benjamin Persing farm. In this school the young people of that day received their academic education. Some came twenty or twenty-five miles to receive the benefits of its training. Rev. Dorland was pastor of the Presbyterian Church. He left in 1859 or 1860 and later became president of South Female Seminary for the Freedmen, located in North Carolina.



Marvin & Donna Mae Schaffner, Murry,
Denny, Julie & Jerry



Guy & Betty Vanderveer, David &
Linda, Kenneth, Norma & son Michael



ELITE SINGING CLASS, SECOND TERM
Commencing December 21, 1897 and ending February 8, 1898
W. A. L. Gibbs, Professor

John Hershiser, President; Katie Hutchison, Secretary; Brice Jay, Treasurer

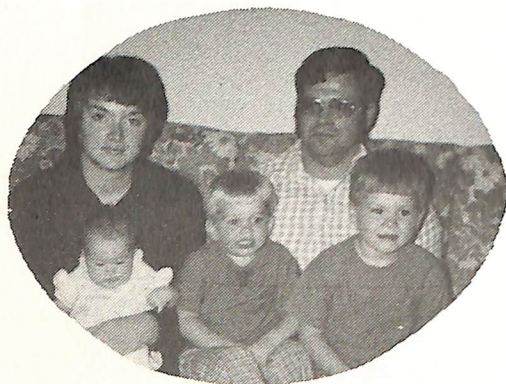
Members of the Class

Irvin Borton
Devilla Borton
Verdi Borton
Sammy Cliffton
Phoebe Vandevere
Lawrence Wise
Brice Jay
Brice Wilson
Cynthia Borton
Aurie Fench
Rollo Hershiser
John Hershiser
Pearl Hershiser
Alvin Borton
Carrie Hutchison
Bryant Borton

Mary Borton
Mabel Cliffton
Etta Hake
Theodore Vandevere
Jessie Strausbaugh
Valora Jay
Gertrude Heist
Katie Hershiser
Lewis Hershiser
Howard Hershiser
Francis Hutchison
Ayers Shipman
Katie Hutchison
J. M. Vandevere
Wilbur Hutchison



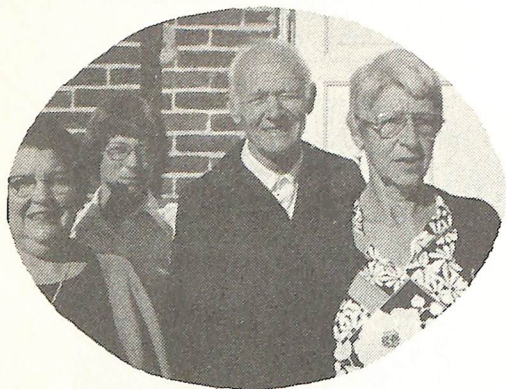
The old log cabin in which Lewis Hershiser was born.



Julie & Allan Valentine,
Kari, Christopher & Jason



Donna & Leland Meyers
Daren, David, Daniel & Pamela



Dorothy & Woodrow Clemons,
son Douglas, & her sister,
Evelyn Roehrig



Howard & Hazel Baltosser
son, James

THE QUAKERS OR FRIENDS

In the days of long ago--
Stalwart men with arms like steel,
Believed that they could make a home
In O-H-I-O if they would come.

Before them stood the forest dark,
Where oftimes a deer would dart,
There the wild turkey made a home.
And the old grey wolves would roam.

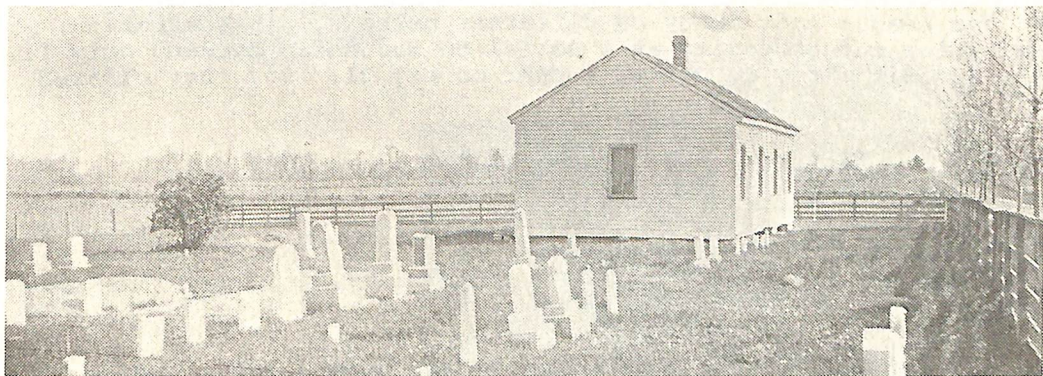
They made their dwellings--
As best they could,
With adzs and ax and wedge and scaw
We envy that ingenuity now.

They made the best of what they found--
With peace and plenty the whole year round,
Sugar from the maple tree
And honey from the honey bee.

Their flocks of sheep could clothe them all
However great, however small.
And of the tallow they formed a light
Candles to light throughout the night.

Now the Quakers sleep in the old church yard,
And with them the secret they once knew,
Of making a home of what they found
With peace and plenty, the whole year round.

--by Mrs. Daisy Ford



Society of Friends Meeting House

EPWORTH LEAGUE

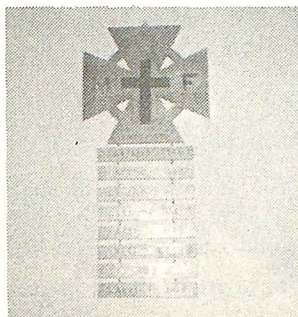
The Methodist Church arose out of the preaching and organizational abilities of John Wesley. He was born in 1703 in the rectory at Epworth in England, where his father was a parish minister in the Church of England.

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship is in direct line of succession of the Epworth League, which was first organized for the Methodist youth in 1889. The Epworth League was a separate organization and had its meetings on Sunday evenings and its social activities without relationship to the Sunday-school class for the youth. In 1941 after the three main Methodist churches: Methodist Protestant, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Episcopal Church united to become the Methodist Church, the Methodist Youth Fellowship was formed. This includes the church school and other educational programs for the church youth.

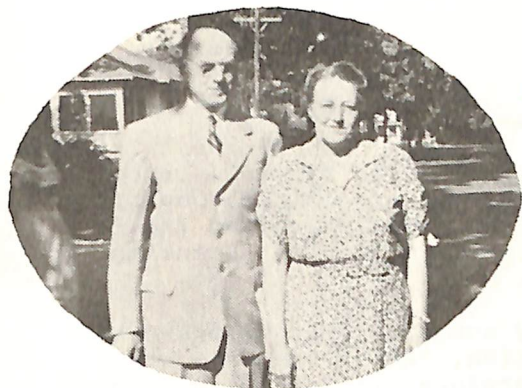
The motto for the old Epworth League was "Look up, Lift up." After 1968 the organization was renamed United Methodist Youth Fellowship.

The earliest record of the Epworth League at West Franklin was recorded in a book in 1893. Between then and 1899, some 129 members had participated in their meetings. On July 17, 1895, there were 44 active members and 30 associate members. The meetings consisted of prayer, scripture lessons, Bible reference, singing, and entertainment. On October 3, 1897, the meeting was devoted to election of officers. Officers were as follows: President, Sherman Ely; 1st V.P., Lawrence Wise; 2nd V.P., Eva Robison; 3rd V.P., Mrs. Elmer Ely; 4th V.P., Mrs. Libbie Ely; Secretary, John Hershiser; Treasurer, C. Hopf; Organists, Miss Lulu Andre and Edna Moss; Chorister, Lawrence Wise.

The League made money by different methods. They cleared from tables and groceries at a social on Wednesday evening July 11, 1906--\$27.81. From an oyster supper on May 21, 1907 they cleared \$1.75.



Methodist Youth Fellowship plaque with bars earned yearly



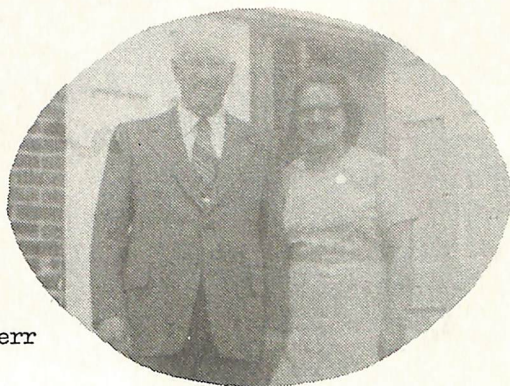
Rev. & Mrs. Glen Robison



Rev. & Mrs. E. E. Roberts



Rev. & Mrs. Reuben Eicher



Rev. & Mrs. Valentine Derr

THE CHURCH BELL--1880

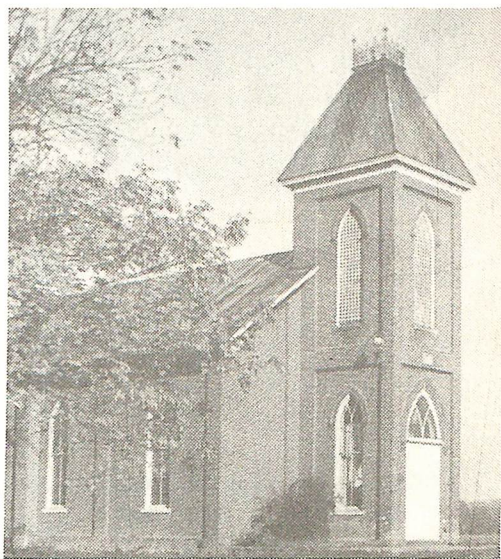
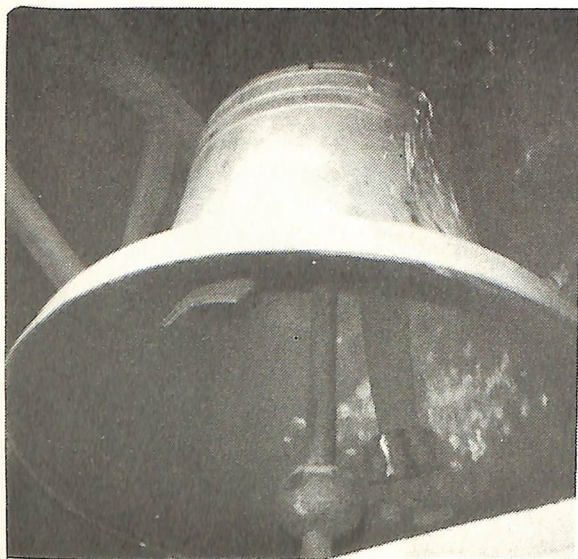
The church bell originally hung in the old Disciple Church in West Unity. This church stood on the northeast corner, one block north of the old West Unity Bank. Dale Zigler purchased the land and church about 1923, then gave the bell to the West Franklin Church.

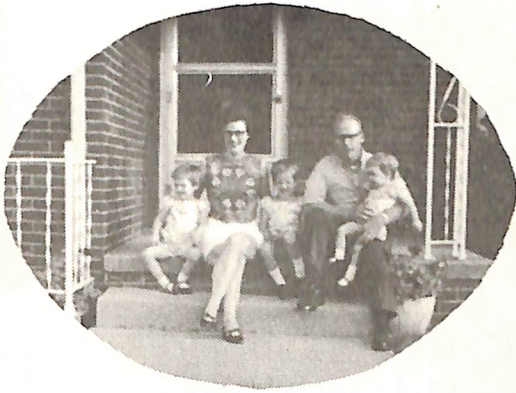
The bell was lowered by a pulley and horses, then drawn by horses and wagon to its present location. Reinforcements were needed to support the heavy bell; therefore, it lay in the church yard until provisions were made, then it was pulled up into the belfry.

The bell was originally bought from the Vandoz E. N. and Tift Co. of Cincinnati and was made by the Buckeye Bell Foundry in 1880.

It is considered to be of very good quality and weighs approximately 400 to 450 pounds, with a twenty-eight inch diameter. The clapper strikes an arch made of metal which is very rare. Perhaps this is to prevent the bell from cracking.

The bell is still rung for Sunday School and church services. Howard Baltosser tolls the bell.





Roberta & Gary Barnhart
Dawn, Laura & Stacy

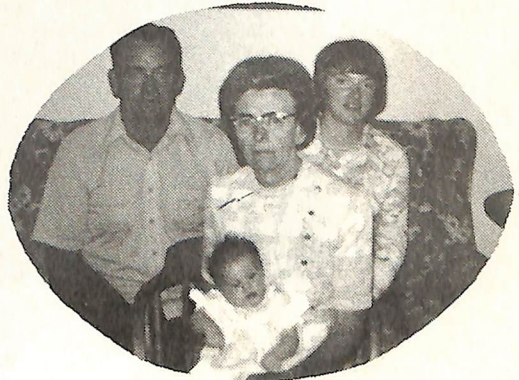
Evelyn & Leroy Leininger, Irene & Lee,
Elda Carrington, Wanda Cunningham,
Lynn, Louise Fredrick, Alice Jean
Smith



Audrey & Millard Stacey
Onalee, Donna & Paul

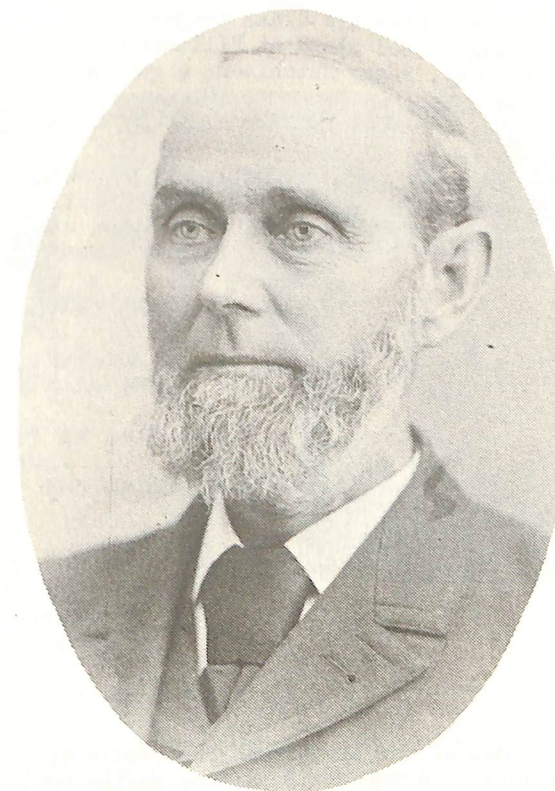


Four generations; Mabel
Schaffner, son Marvin,
his daughter Julie,
Valentine, her daughter
Kari Ann Valentine





Sunday School Class of 1896 taught by L. G. Ely
 Back row-Bessie Wise, Mae Hershiser, Cynthia Borton,
 Mabel Clifton, Lula Andre, Bertha Raymond, 3rd row-
 Mary Robison, Pearly Shultz, Dora Kosier, Fannie
 McGowan, Willobell Gleason, Carrie Hutchison, Elta
 Kanauer, 2nd row-Jessie Fisher, Daisy Spade, Mable
 Ely, 1st row- Jessie Strasbaugh, Alice Kosier,
 & Florence Hutchison

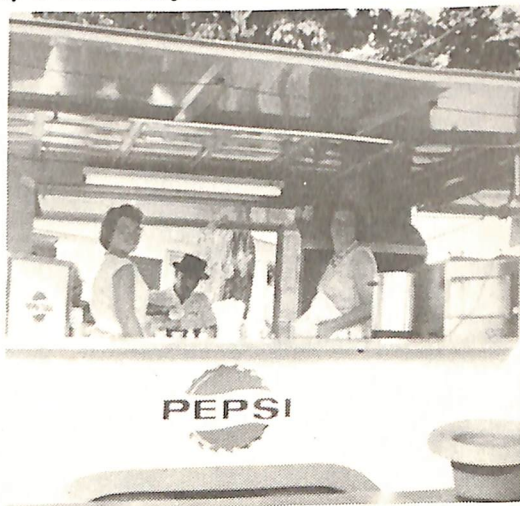
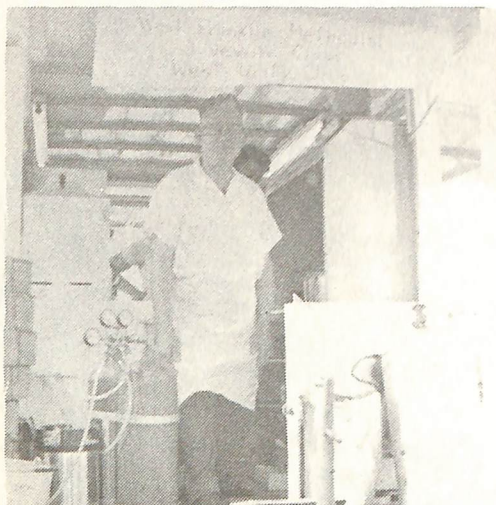


L. G. Ely, Sunday School
 teacher for many years



unknown, Ollie Schaffner, Alden Borton, Carlton Daso, Wilma Hoffman, Vella Schaffner,
 Elaine Hoffman, Esther Gerig, Lois Borton, unknown, Jane Shilling, George Gunn, Judy
 Hoffman, Jean Coy, Madge Hershiser, Howard Hershiser, Streeper Hinkle, three unknowns,
 Joyce Borton, unknown, Mae Hershiser, Neil Hartman

One of many Livewire Class projects
 Pepsi wagon food stand at Williams County Fair
 Raymond Coy, Peggy Hutchison, a customer, & Donna Meyers



One of the Livewire Class projects;
 Jim Hutchison & Donna Schaffner making noodles



Thanksgiving--1972
 Rev. Hayes, Vera Bowman, Mildred Coy,
 Raymond Coy, James & Ina Hutchison

WEST FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1875--1975

The little brick church on the corner,
Has stood here a hundred years.
It's been a comfort to many people
And has driven away their fears.

It has seen five generations
Just of our family.
It would tell many stories
If it could only talk to me.

It's been a big part of our life
Since I became a Gunn,
Helped us raise our two daughters
And our only son.

Its doors are always open
And its bell so loudly rings
Inviting all the passers-by
To come in a while and sing.

And so we bow our heads in prayer
To thank our Lord above,
For West Franklin and all its people
And a way to show our love.

For love is what's held it together
Over this long one hundred years
And the good Lord has watched over us
For he is always near.

Joan Gunn



Orville & Joan Gunn
Sharon, James & Charlotte



Mabel & Ollie Schaffner,
Mary Ellen, Gene & Marvin



Marjorie & Clifton Hartman, Ronald, Lyla, Doris & Neal

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

The Ladies' Aid group of the church has been active for many years. A new organization was formed in 1928. A large celebration was held on May 16, 1940, to denote its twelfth birthday.

Suppers of various kinds were popular during the earlier years as a means of raising money. These were often held at the homes of the members. The ladies enjoyed all types of sewing: quilts, comforters, rugs, lap robes, layettes, and children's clothing were made to sell, as well as to give to the needy. Money, clothing, blankets, and other useful articles have been collected and sent to children's homes, hospitals, nursing homes, and missionary stations. Fruits and vegetables have been canned for Booth Festivals to aid Flower Hospital in Toledo. Through the years many boxes of clothing have been sent to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. Mina Gunn was one of our faithful members, who spent countless hours mending and repairing the donated articles. Preparations have been made for many bazaars, bake sales, socials, suppers, smorgasbords, and auction sale dinners to raise money for various charitable projects. Christmas has always meant sharing with the less fortunate, so many boxes of food, toys, clothing, gifts, and money have been donated where needed. Gifts were sent to our young people in military service and to those in college. For many years we prepared and served meals for the National Thresher's Association. It was first held on the Leroy Blaker farm northwest of Alvordton. It was then held at the fairgrounds in Montpelier when it outgrew the farm setting. The whole church helped with this large undertaking, and it proved highly successful.

LADIES' AID CHANGED TO WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The organizational meeting was Sunday evening, September 15, 1940. The first meeting was held at the home of Mildred Daso on September 19, 1940. The following officers were elected:

President-----	Grace Shilling
Vice-President-----	Irma Grob
Secretary-----	Mildred Cotter
Treasurer-----	Marjorie Hartman

There were twenty-eight charter members:

Edna Hinkle	Anna Borton
Jessie Vanderveer	Grace Shilling
Alice Gunn	Ruth Riggs
Bessie Cotter	Helen Borton
Della Guy	Mrs. A. Rainsberger
Blake Shilling	Gertie Morey
Ethel Huser	Mildred Cotter
Maud Hutchison	Vera Bowman

Edith Clifton
Mina Gunn
Mae Hershiser
Rosella Beaverson
Irma Grob
Marjorie Hartman

Mildred Daso
Mary Raymond
Mabel Schaffner
Joan Gunn
Mary Caulkins
Audrey Stacey

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMAN'S SOCIETY
OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE APRIL 21, 1966

On Thursday evening, April 21, the twenty-fifth anniversary was celebrated. Virginia Hachtel and Mildred Daso were in charge. Gladys Hershiser baked a beautifully decorated Bible-shaped cake for the occasion. Ten of the original charter members were present

NEW ORGANIZATION ON OCTOBER 17, 1968

The new organization will be called Women's Society of Christian Service. Because of the merger of the Methodist and United Brethren Churches, a new charter is being formed. Thirty-four women signed to become members. The elected officers were:

President-----Betty Vanderveer
Vice-President-----Sue Schaffner
Secretary-----Virginia Hachtel
Treasurer-----Mildred Daso

ANOTHER NAME CHANGE--SEPTEMBER 20, 1973

Virginia Hachtel had charge of the service for the new United Methodist Women. Elected officers were:

President-----Mildred Coy
Vice-President-----Hazel Baltosser
Secretary-----Joan Gunn
Treasurer-----Donna Mae Schaffner

THE PRESENT TIME

In 1975 we are still known as United Methodist Women, and we have thirty-three members:

Helen Borton
Hazel Baltosser
Robert Barnhart
Isabel Bigelow
Vera Bowman
Mildred Cotter
Lethel Cunningham
Mildred Daso
Joan Gunn

Mildred Coy
Donna Mae Schaffner
Mabel Schaffner
Sue Schaffner
Betty Vanderveer
Arlene Borton
Anna Borton
Cheryl Bird
Donna Meyers

Virginia Hachtel
 Marjorie Hartman
 Gladys Hershiser
 Ethel Huser
 Brenda Jacoby
 Vivian Johnson
 Evelyn Leininger
 Audrey Stacey

Barbara Nafziger
 Virginia Porath
 Blake Shilling
 Dorothy Semer
 Edna Stoltz
 Arlene Tanner
 Dorothy Vanarsdalen

Present officers are:

President-----Mildred Coy
 Vice-President-----Lethel Cunningham
 Secretary-----Betty Vanderveer
 Treasurer-----Donna Mae Schaffner



WSCS 25th anniversary
 Donna Schaffner, Helen Gerig,
 Joan Gunn, & Mildred Cotter



WSCS 25th anniversary, charter
 members present
 Mildred Cotter, Mary Caulkins,
 Audrey Stacey, Helen Borton, Joan
 Gunn, Mildred Daso. Seated, Edna
 Hinkle, Mary Raymond, Bessie Cotter
 Irma Grob.



WSCS 25th anniversary
 cake baked by
 Gladys Hershiser

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school dates back many years, sometimes it was held in the homes before the church building was built. There are records available, dating back to 1896, when C. Spade was Superintendent of the school. Organist at that time was Ella Kump. On January 5 of that year, they had 57 scholars, 13 teachers, 70 in attendance, with \$.53 collection. Their lesson subject was "Forerunner of Christ." Scripture Lesson was taken from Luke 1:5-17 and Golden Text--Luke 1:7. According to the record book, when it rained there was no service.

In many churches the Sunday School service has been discontinued, but at West Franklin there are services every Sunday. At the present time Sunday School service is held before the church; we still have the Superintendent opening with songs and prayer.

Many years ago the Sunday School came up with these names for their classes: Bible Class, Willing Workers, Live Wire Class, Loyal Workers, Class of Loyalty, P.P.P. Class, Helping Hands, Little Workers, Beginners Class, Cradle Roll Babies.

Some of these classes named are still active today with dedicated personnel. Teachers who have taught a number of years and are still teaching are Vivian Johnson, Lois Borton, Raymond Coy, Betty Vanderveer, Sue Schaffner; others are Brenda Jacoby, Peggy Hutchison and Roberta Barnhart with fewer year's service.

Special programs have been held in the Sunday School hour such as Promotion Day, Children's Day, special music, Rally Day Programs, recitations and other things of interest.

Very few services have been missed in recent times. Sunday Superintendents were: C. Spade, C. K. Miller, 1896; C. Spade, 1898; L. G. Ely, 1899; C. K. Miller, 1904; R. E. Imes, 1909; Hartwell Sayers, 1919; Henry Viers, 1926; Harvey Bowman, 1927; T. S. Hinkle, 1929; Roll Imes, 1930; Harvey Bowman, 1933; Olin Borton, 1940 (18 years). Others were: Ray Borton, Orville Gunn, Gene Schaffner, Raymond Coy, and Jan Burkhard. In 1971, when women's lib caught on, Ina Hutchison was installed as the first woman Superintendent.



back row-Betty VanArsdalen, Jan Hutchison,
Sharon Gunn, Janet Shilling, Onalee Hershiser
front row-Robert Coy, Jack Cotter, Charlotte
Gunn, Judy Hoffman, Jennie Hachtel, William
Shilling, teacher-Mable Schaffner



back row-Sharon Gunn, Jack Cotter, Charlotte, Gunn,
John Hachtel, Janet Shilling, Onalee Hershiser
front row-Robert Coy, Jennie Hachtel, Judy Hoffman,
Shirley Merrilat, William Shilling, & James Opdycke



Barbara Johnson, Daniel Borton,
Murry Schaffner, a guest, Greg
Brillhart, James & Jeffrey Borton



Kenneth Vanderveer, Jill Cotter,
Judy Hutchison, Dee Ann Daso,
Nancy Hoffman, & Mildred Cotter-
teacher

BURIAL OF THE DEAD

Funerals were held many times in the church building in years gone by; but with changing times, this seldom occurs anymore. Sermons were long and mention of any wrong-doing was usually brought out in the sermon. On the other hand, nothing but good deeds were in the offering.

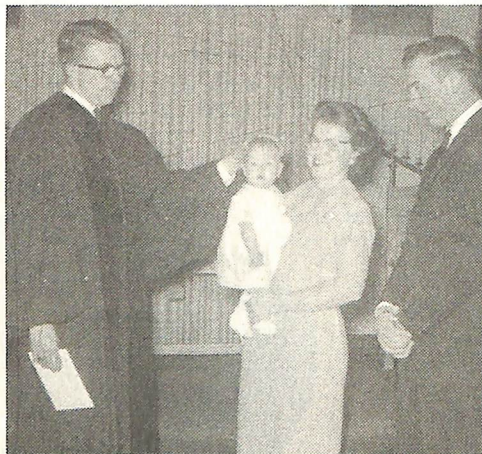
Three cemeteries are within sight of the corner. They are the West Franklin Cemetery, Quaker Church Yard, and the Presbyterian Cemetery just north of the church.

Harvey Bowman's funeral was the last one held in our church.

BAPTISM

Many of the baptisms were held in the open streams near the church. Sometimes the ice had to be cut in order to make the immersion. The more modern baptismal is practiced today, usually around the Easter season; although it could be done anytime that one would like such service. Sprinkling of the head is common practice at this church.

Sadie Borton and Anna Prickett were baptized in Millcreek on June 27, 1887. Will Gunn and Catherine Gunn were baptized in the St. Joe River. The creek where Orville Gunn lives was dammed up in order to baptize Jennie (Gunn) Raymond, Clara and Luella Shilling and Hazel Morey. Rev. Money baptized them.



Dawn, daughter of Peggy Hutchison, being baptized by Rev. Bruce Irwin



Mrs. Harvey Bowman & her daughters,
Geneva & Orville Rueger,
Dorothy & Richard Meier

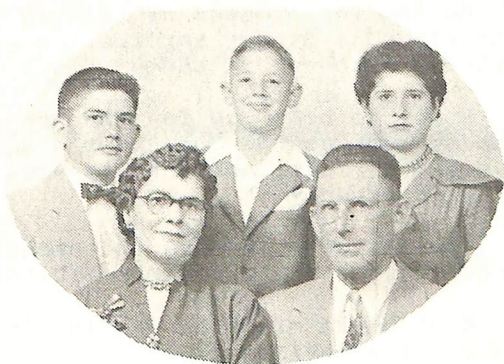


Virginia & Reuben Hachtel,
Jennie, Susan, John & George



Gene & Sue Schaffner
Beth, Brent, & Mona

Gladys & Lee Hershiser
David, Marvin & Onalee



REMODELING--1952

Early in 1952 there was some talk of remodeling the church building and making additional rooms, so on March 5 a meeting was called at the church with fifteen families represented.

Emerson Rice, a contractor, gave in detail what the work would include if the floor was raised and what remodeling would be needed. Itemized estimates were made on the basement, not including the kitchen equipment. It would cost approximately \$5,100. An upground building was also considered and that would cost \$6,350.

Pledges and gifts were given that amounted to \$4,437.70.

George Gunn accepted the role of chairman of the building and Stanley Hoffman became chairman of the labor committee with Lee Hershiser and Orville Gunn to assist him.

In charge of planning and blueprints were Ralph Russell and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hutchison. Several plans were produced and the better parts were combined; as a result they came up with the final plans.

No record was kept of the date the project began but it was early spring of 1952. Everyone from young to old pitched in and the dirt began to fly from under the church. The basement was dug a little at a time, so the footer could be put in; this was done in sections to prevent the church from collapsing. A lot of dirt had to be removed as there had been only room for the furnaces and a path to get to them. The floor was raised without much difficulty and a new inside stairway was put in the front of the church, also one was placed inside the northwest corner, both was to gain access to the basement. New cupboards, floor covering, rest rooms, furnace, and new light fixtures were some of the things that helped to complete this project. The new basement was used the first time for a social event on January 9, 1953.

During the process of raising and remodeling the church, we never missed a Sunday service, as there were temporary steps installed. Although it seemed risky, we never suffered a casualty.

Money to help pay for the project was raised by many different methods, such as the Thresher's Reunion, dairy and other banquets, ice cream socials, and the Livewire class even put on a play to help with expenses.

Pledges were made to the amount of \$4,437.70. The cost of remodeling was approximately \$10,000.

Many hours of labor was involved, many jokes passed on, lots of unusual experiences were recorded mentally and the results were satisfactory. We have been enjoying the fruits of our labor ever since.

NUTS AND BOLTS--1953

In order to help defray expenses when remodeling the church, the Livewire Class put on a three-act play called "Nuts and Bolts." It was given on Friday, April 4, at the Zone School; on April 5, at the West Unity High School and later, at the Waldron High School. It was a comedy and each participant can recall many incidents that he will long remember. Velma Russell was director; Ina Hutchison, prompter; and Gladys Hershiser, class president. The following is the cast of characters:

REBECCA BOLT--Manager of the Bolt Sanitarium for mental hygiene--
Virginia Hachtel

LUTIE SPINKS--the maid that winks--Donna Mae Schaffner

BERNITA BOLT--Rebecca's niece--Helen Gerig

MARTHA GRUBB--the cook, a melancholic--Edna Stoltz

TWINK STAR--Bernita's fiance with delusions of grandeur--Lloyd Gerig

DR. HIPPOCRATES--a psychiatrist--Raymond Coy

HENRY GOOBER--negro porter, afraid of lunatics--Charles Shilling

PHINEAS PLUNKETT--a lawyer with humility complex--Ralph Russell

MISS PRUNELLA FIGG--a patient with claustrophobia--Betty Vanderveer

CADWALLIDER CLIPPY--a patient afraid of cats--Reuben Hachtel

MRS. GERTIE GLOSSOP--a patient who fears contamination--Mildred Coy

WILBER GLOSSOP--her darling brat (child)--Blake Shilling

JACK GORDEN--a young intern--Floyd Stoltz

What happens when a wealthy widow opens a health and mental sanitarium where \$15,000 has been hidden?

Between acts, Jim Hutchison had a recitation and demonstration, "Diapering the Baby."

NEIGHBORING CHURCHES STILL OPEN

There is another United Methodist Church approximately 3 1/2 miles west of our church known as the Clay Ebenezer Church. It was formerly a United Brethren church until they and the Methodists united. They have the same minister as the West Unity Methodist Church. The Clay Church is a white frame building, while ours is brick.

Our closest neighboring church is the West Franklin Church of Christ located one mile east and approximately 2 1/2 miles south. This is also a white frame church. Many of our members have a special feeling for this church. Through marriages over the years the families of both have been closely associated. Since the very early days the families of the Friends church, which is now closed, have been closely associated to both the Methodist and Church of Christ families due to intermarriage.



Mae & Harvey Johnson cutting up at the Trheshers Reunion
Edna Stoltz, in background



Floyd & Edna Stoltz



Peggy & Jan Hutchison
Jon & Dawn



Charles & Mildred Cotter
children, Jack & Jill



Katherine & Richard Barnhart
& son, Gary

PROGRAMS

We have had various programs at the church during the years. We used to have a Children's Day program on a Sunday evening in June.

Another program is our Christmas program held in the evening. Santa announces his arrival by the jingling of his sleigh bells. At this time of year, also, gift boxes are fixed and delivered to shut-ins of the community. Caroling has been enjoyed by those who participated, with hot chocolate enjoyed at the church later.

Rally Day has been observed for many years. One event everyone enjoys is the community weiner roast held in the fall and the singing which follows.

We have had Bible School for a few years with 60 children in attendance one year.

At one time, class meetings were held every month with attendance of 100 members at one meeting.

We have had "homecomings" in October with potluck dinners on Sundays.

We participate in a missionary program; also we have sent money and gifts to Indian children at Christmas and other times during the year.

We have a Mother-Daughter Banquet each spring, and we have had Father-Son Banquets and Breakfasts also.





Audrey Stacey with antique dolls and her granddaughter, Pamela Meyers, with modern dolls, entertaining at a Mother-Daughter Banquet.



Linda Vanderveer, explaining her badges, earned in Girl Scouts



Entertainment at a Mother-Daughter Banquet
Frances Zuver told of her childhood association
with the Indians.

RALLY MONTH

The whole month of October was planned for Rally Month. Something different was carried out each Sunday . . . sometimes with the women teaching; other times, the men. Even the young folks' class took their turn. On the last Sunday of the month there is usually a celebration commemorating Homecoming Day. Baskets filled with goodies are brought to fill the physical need; and in the afternoon, a program of special music, preaching, and reminiscing is usually planned.

October 25, 1953--

Special music--Men's Quartette

Greetings from former ministers and friends

Solo--Lloyd Bowman

Address--Jesse Frey, Milbury, Ohio



Homecoming in the 1950's--back row--Perry Jones, Madge Hershiser, Howard Hershiser, Henry Viers, Arthur Shambarger & Charles Taylor; front row--Nellie Viers, Jessie Vanderveer & Maud Huthcison

MISSIONARIES

Several members of West Franklin have gone into the missionary field, and all, incidentally, have been from the same family. They are children and grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Bowman who lived just west of the church.

Clyde Bowman and his wife, Blanche, served in India. Their son, Robert, and family are serving in Africa now. Robert is a pilot and flies medical supplies and food to various places.

Floyd Bowman is retired after serving in the missionary field over 30 years. He and his wife live in Deland, Florida. Their four sons are, or have been, missionaries. Lowell served in Africa and now resides in Minnesota. Loyal is serving in Africa. Roland is on leave in Deland, Florida, and is working at the Missionary Home and Hospital. His mission was in Africa, too. Harold is a missionary pilot at Addis Ababa, Africa. He flies for the "Mercy Air Lift." His duties are to fly natives to the hospitals from the bush. Recently, he flew a plane from California to Ethiopia.

Esther (King) Rupp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert King, and her husband, Andrew, were missionaries in the Dominican Republic. Mrs. Bert King (Mary Bowman) was a sister of Floyd and Clyde Bowman.

We are very proud to have such a good representation in the missionary work.



Bowman children
Frank, Harvey,
Clyde, Orville,
Floyd, Vernie Rupp,
Mary King, & Leona
Meier.



Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Bowman

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized sometime in the year 1952, with Virginia Hachtel and Margaret Krohn Sutton as leaders. The group went to retreats and skating parties. Many attended Lakeside Conference.

The meetings were held on Sunday nights alternating between Fayette and West Franklin.

Rev. Roberts, pastor during this time, made the meetings very interesting with his humor. Many can recall when Rev. Rector broke his arm at a skating party when he was minister.

In the year of 1968, with members of just West Franklin, Susan Hachtel led the group to a busy year. Area churches helped them put on musicals with a fellowship hour following. They had Coffee Shops and visited places of interest. They had time to remember the sick and help on missions at home and abroad.

In the year 1970 Vivian Johnson and Gladys Hershiser became advisors for U.M.Y.F. Their group had monthly meetings held in various homes, stressing Bible study and personal prayer.

The U.M.Y.F. has participated in missions, bake sales, skating parties, bowling parties, and are in charge of the Easter Sunrise Services.



Vivian Johnson--UMYF advisor Gladys Hershiser--advisor

Miss Susan Hachtel



back row-Mary Porath, Peggy Johnson, Beth Schaffner,
Cindy Porath, & Gladys Hershiser-advisor
front row- Sandra, Patti, & Barbara Johnson
Not pictured-Vivian Johnson-advisor



back row--Johnson girls; Barbara, Patti, Peggy & Sandy
front row--Pamela Meyers, Linda Vanderveer,
Mona Schaffner & Irene Leininger

ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the West Franklin Methodist Church was held October 29, 1950. There were special services. Morning worship was held at 9:40 with the pastor, W. L. Nofcier speaking. Sunday School followed at 10:45. A basket dinner was held at noon, with services again at 2:00. The afternoon program consisted of songs by the Ladies' Trio of the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Wauseon, musical saw selections by Carlton Daso, a history of the church prepared by George Gunn, and remarks from former pastors of the church. Dr. F. Bringle McIntosh was the afternoon speaker. He had served as Toledo District Superintendent for five years prior to his election to the presidency of Ohio Northern University.

The ninetieth anniversary of the present church building was held October 23, 1966, with Miss Margaret Neeffe guest soloist for the morning services. After a basket dinner, Mrs. Leland Meyers, Jr. and her children came attired as they may have done 90 years ago. Mr. Carlton Daso played his musical saw and was accompanied by his daughter, Dee Ann. A trio of high school girls from West Unity, Misses Carolyn Bowman, Becky Hornung, and Sharon Newcomb sang. Also, a quartet from the church sang; Mrs. Orville Gunn, Mrs. Gene Schaffner, Mrs. Marvin Schaffner, and Miss Dee Ann Daso.

Remarks were heard from former pastors, Rev. Glen Robison, Rev. Robert Rector, and Rev. Bruce Irwin. Also, Rev. E. E. Roberts, Fayette a former pastor, gave a very interesting and informative talk on the history of the Corners and inns that were along the Angola Road between Chicago and Toledo. He also told of the Ohio-Michigan War.

Raymond Coy was Master of Ceremonies. The program was planned by the Outreach Commissions of the church under the leadership of Rev. Ralph Solida, Mrs. Olin Borton, and Mrs. Vera Bowman.

On the ninety-fifth anniversary, Sunday School started at 9:45 and Church Service at 10:45. A basket dinner at 12:30 was followed by afternoon services at 2:30, with a special program. It consisted of a solo by David Rand, history of the church by Betty Vanderveer, musical saw selection by Carlton Daso, songs by UMYF, and music by the Depew family trumpet trio. Pastor L. Richard Batzler gave the meditation. This anniversary was observed on October 25, 1970.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

A Standard History of Williams County, Ohio, by Hon. Charles A. Bowersox, Volumes 1 and 2, 1920.

A Standard History of Fulton County, Ohio, by Frank H. Reighard, Volumes 1 and 2, 1920.

The County of Williams--1905, by William Henry Shinn.

History of Henry and Fulton Counties, Ohio, by Lewis Cass Aldrich, 1888.

County of Williams, Ohio, 1882, by Weston A. Goodspeed.

Commemorative Biographical Record of Northwestern Ohio Including the Counties of Defiance, Henry, Williams, and Fulton, by H. H. Beers & Co., 1899.

History Atlas of Williams County, 1874.

Map of Fulton County, Ohio, 1867.

Information taken from articles written by Mr. A. W. Fisher for The Fayette Record in 1895.



CARLTON DASO of Fayette, accompanied by Mrs. Vera Bowman, played two favorite hymns on his musical saw.

LIBRARY BOOKS

In 1900 the Church Library consisted of 204 different books some of which were:

The Little Boarding School Girl	Happy Christmas
Clara and Her Cousins	The Little Prayers
What Made Little Molly So Happy	Stick To It
Arthur's Visit to Grandpa	My Little Sister
Grace and Her Money Box	Getting Rich
Bessie and Her Lamb	The Fishhooks
What God Does Is Well Done	The Bears Den
A Little Brown Seed	Corner Work
The Thread of Gold	In His Own Way
Links In Rebecca's Life	Across The Path
The King's Daughter	Who Shall Serve
Judge Burnham's Daughters	Three People
Household Puzzles	Those Boys
The Man of the House	Wise and Otherwise
Echoing and Reechoing	Prevailing Prayer
Young Folk's Bible History	Crown Jewels
Autobiography of a Pioneer	Living In Earnest
The Latter Day Eden	Walter Raleigh
Evidences of Christianity	One Winter's Work
Young Folk's History of Rome	My Uncle Toby
Young Folk's History of Greece	Inside the Gates
Young Folk's History of England	Save Your Minutes
Young Folk's History of Germany	Cortez
Young Folk's History of France	The Master Sower
The Culture of a Christian	Forward March
The Little Chicken Thieves	Daniel
The Helm, Sword and Cross	Her Ben
The Mother of the Westley's	Seven Great Lights
Non Biblical Systems of Religion	The Galilean Gospel
Child's History of England	John Wesley
Questions of the Heart	Earnest Men
Epidemic Delusions	The Silent Land
Annie Borton's Journal	Laws of the Soul
Black Horse Carry All	Cruden's Concordance
The Hand in the Dark	The Unequal Four
The Young Church Members	Under the Queen
Practical Hints on Junior League Work	Pizarro
Good Night Thoughts	Columbus
The Pathway of Victory	Round the World I
The Pilgrim's Vision	Round the World II
Lectures for the Young	Shadowed Lives
Souvenirs of Luther	Household Stories
The Bridge of History	Jottings from Life
Elements of Methodism	Fault Finding
Young Ladies' Counsellor	Scenes in Europe
Recreations in Natural History	Beyond the Ruts
Young Man's Counsellor	Thirty Years War
That Boy, Who Shall Have Him?	Gist



Sunday School pianist & song leader,
Beth & Mona Schaffner

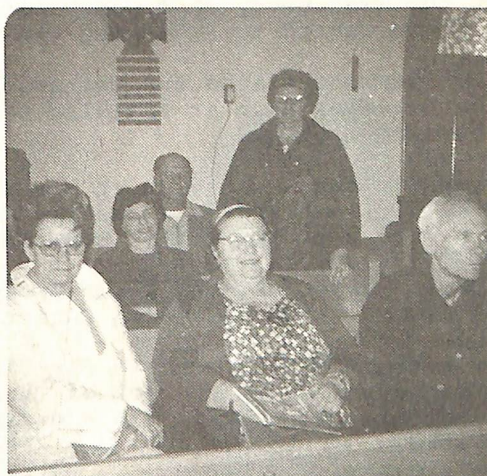


Youth pianist & song leader,
Pam Meyers & Sue Schaffner



Our Youth Choir

back row--Sue Schaffner-leader, David Meyers, Brent Schaffner, Jeffrey Jacoby, middle row--Daren Meyers, Scott Jacoby, Jerry Schaffner, Rolland Johnson, Front row--Stacy & Laura Barnhart
Not pictured--Dawn Barnhart & Dawn Hutchison



Part of the Livewire Class--
Gene Schaffner, Isabel Bigelow,
Donna Meyers, Guy Vanderveer,
Dorothy Clemons, Betty Vanderveer-
teacher, & Woodrow Clemons

DID YOU KNOW?

There used to be peppermint factories in this immediate area? Oil was extracted and hauled to the East in wooden kegs.

The old Asher Ely farm is now the Orville Gunn farm; the old P. R. Fisher farm now belongs to Gladys Hershiser; and the Marjorie Hartman farm used to be the J. H. Fisher farm?

Bears were reported in the vicinity and children walking home from school became frightened and waited at a friend's home until after dark to continue home?

Three out of Donna Stacey Meyers' four grandparents attended this church?

Frank Bowman's older children were baptized by immersion west of Harrison Lake and north of Marzolf's house?

Little Guy Vanderveer cried hard when his father was baptized at Clear Lake?

That during practice for a Children's Day program, Floyd Bowman and some other boys decided to jump out the window?

That the church used to be full every Sunday?

That the west buggy shed was built from lumber salvaged from the old frame church in 1875 when the new brick one was erected?

Jennie Raymond played the melodeon, piano, and organ for 33 years? She attended church at Franklin beginning at age nine. She is now eighty-six.

That the first saw and grist mills in the area which were run by water, were put up by George and William Johnson and located on the state road 2 miles west of Burlington on the banks of Bean Creek?

Ollie Schaffner climbed about fifty feet to cut the top from one of Hartman's pines to use as a Christmas tree at church?

That a refrigerator ordered for the church was mistakenly delivered to the West Franklin Church of Christ? Olin and Guy waited for a long time to help unload it and finally realized what must have happened.

That several men from the church went to Michigan to help in the clean-up after the Palm Sunday Tornado some years ago? A few women also went taking cookies. They helped prepare meals for the workers.

That Harve, Mae and Vivian Johnson failed to recognize two of their close neighbors who were also members of the church, when they went to call one evening? Maybe it was because they were dressed for Halloween. Harve chased them down the lane in his bare feet.

That there was a gravel pit on the Joy and Joyce Graf farm? There was also one on the Clair and Fannie Altaffer farm.

That the Woody Clemens family and Evelyn Roehrig drive the greatest distance to attend services on Sunday?

That Santa, one year, was well portrayed by a woman? It was Ruth Opdycke.

That the present church basement was dug out by hand using picks and shovels? The dirt and stone were removed by elevator.

That Gypsies used to come with their wagons and camp in the church yard? They watered their horses at the well across the road.

That we had a men's and women's Softball Team? When the women and girls from the two West Franklin churches played they drew the largest crowds ever to attend softball games in West Unity. Cars parked all around the outfield.



Fisher School House



Three Generations
Orville, James, & William Gunn

FRANKLINISMS

- 1847 - There has been Sunday preaching since this date.
- 1885 - The Franklin Sunday School closed last Sunday for winter, Wed., Nov. 11.
- 1885 - The first quarterly meeting of the Conference year will be held at the M. E. Church at Masters' Corners in November.
- 1885 - Sunday School is held every other Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Organizational meeting on Sunday, April 18.
Farmers started plowing on April 16.
Ripe strawberries on May 28.
N. C. Borton has a strawberry eight inches in circumference.
- 1886 - Since Quarterly Conference is at Fayette, there will be no Sunday School next Sunday, August 30.
Mrs. Ezekiel Masters was living in Pioneer at the time of her sixty-second birthday.
- 1887 - Bean Creek was higher than ever before. During February much damage was done to the roads.
- 1899 - The Grand Sunday School Picnic will be held in Shillings' Grove 2 1/2 miles southwest of Zone on Thursday, August 24, at 10:30 a.m.
- 1910 - It rained hard one Sunday - no services.
- 1920 - Lowered church ceiling and enclosed tower windows in November
- 1922 - Willing Workers Class met at the home of the Theo Vanderveers for the annual pot luck supper. There were 110 present.
Class President was Henry Viers. Minister was Rev. Arthur.
- 1932 - Charles Caulkins turned in a bill for one sack of wood pulp plaster and three gallons of gas for steaming paper. The ceilings and walls were painted for \$75. Woodwork and doors in back room were varnished for \$16.
- 1933 - Money taken in at Ice Cream Social on July 25 was \$53.20.
- 1934 - Talked of sawing south horse and buggy sheds into wood. May get quotes on coal prices.
Sheds sold to Clifton Hartman for \$50.
- 1935 - Ladies' Aid at the home of Maud Hutchison. Sixteen men joined their wives at the dinner hour. Alice Gunn presented gifts to Rev. and Mrs. Rainsberger.
There were fifty present for the Christmas party.

- 1935 - Ladies' Aid met in October at the home of Vera Bowman. 72 quarts of pear butter, 21 quarts of grape juice, and 24 1/2 quarts of tomato juice were canned for the Booth Festival to aid Flower Hospital.
- 1935 - Ladies' Aid at the home of Louise Shoemaker--tying comforters.
- 1936 - Ladies' Aid at the home of Audrey Stacey--discussed Bake Sale. In April Grace Shilling was hostess to a combined meeting of the Ladies' Aid and the Disciple Aid. Ladies' Aid in June at the home of Helen Borton. Voted to buy additional dishes and spoons for the church.
- 1937 - Vella Schaffner was hostess for the Ladies' Aid. Mrs. Blanche Schang joined. On February 17 there was a special Fellowship Supper. A radio hook-up was made to hear Rev. Jones broadcast. Della Guy will be hostess for the Ladies' Aid in April and Edith Clifton in May. Anna Borton will have the June meeting. Bought fence from Mr. Kunkle to maintain church property. Mr. Saunders bought old furnace for \$3.41. Dale Borton bought some rafters. Put in new coal furnace. Harry and Della had a fire at their home in April.
- 1938 - A committee was appointed to buy a piano for the Junior Department. They are: Vera Bowman, Marjorie Hartman, Mildred Daso, and Alice Bowman. On November 10 the women of the church purchased food for the Brotherhood. 68¢ was paid for three pounds of coffee; 40¢ for four loaves of bread; 80¢ for four pounds of meat; celery was 10¢; and \$1.20 was paid for 200 paper plates and napkins.
- 1940 - Ethel Huser served a delicious chicken dinner to the W.S.C.S. in November. 47 attended the Christmas meeting with Alice Gunn. There was a 10¢ gift exchange.
- 1941 - Fourteen ladies met at the church to make children's dresses for Aiken Hall in Kentucky. Edna Hinkle was hostess for the Ladies' Aid. The day was spent quilting and sewing carpet rags. Mabel Schaffner was hostess for the December meeting. There were 27 present.
- 1942 - Sixty-one people enjoyed the Family Night pot luck supper. Mr. Gibson Fenton spoke on his trip to the Far East. The July meeting of the W.S.C.S. was held at the home of Mildred Cotter.



Raymond & Mildred Coy, Jean & Robert



The Opdyckes--Ruth & Willard

- 1951 - Blake Shilling was hostess for the February meeting of the W.S.C.S.
Hostess for July was Wilma Hoffman. Jean Coy, Onalee Hershisier, Judy and Elaine Hoffman entertained the group with several vocal numbers.
- 1952 - Remodeling was begun on the church.
- 1953 - Flush doors were purchased from Leininger's for \$88 a pair. Rev. Roberts was hired to varnish the front doors. Basement floor tile was purchased for \$555.
The church was rededicated.
In January the first wedding reception was held in the new basement for Harold and Arlene Borton.
- 1955 - On June 16, eighteen women and seven men met at the Montpelier Fair Grounds to clean the booths where meals were served to the National Threshers' Association. The workers enjoyed a pot luck dinner. Hostesses were Vivian Johnson, Joan Gunn, and Esther Gerig.
- 1957 - Virginia Hachtel is in charge of the Prayer Group. Three ladies from our church group appeared on Silver Dollar Quiz, a Toledo television program. Participating were Ada Roberts, Donna Schaffner, and Betty Vanderveer.
- 1958 - Ethel Steenson and Helen Borton were in charge of the Women's Prayer group.
Sue Schaffner was responsible for providing Acolytes for the Church Service.
- 1959 - Through the interest and efforts of Vera Bowman, Mr. Claude Foster, a philanthropist, donated a beautiful Thomas organ to our church.
- 1961 - West Franklin joined with Pulaski.
- 1968 - New cove lighting was installed in the Sanctuary in January.
- 1974 - Most of the churches in the county closed one Sunday because of heavy snow and drifts. West Franklin had services as usual although some couldn't make it.
- 1975 - In September new concrete sidewalk and platform were installed in the front of the church. The old shrubbery was also removed.



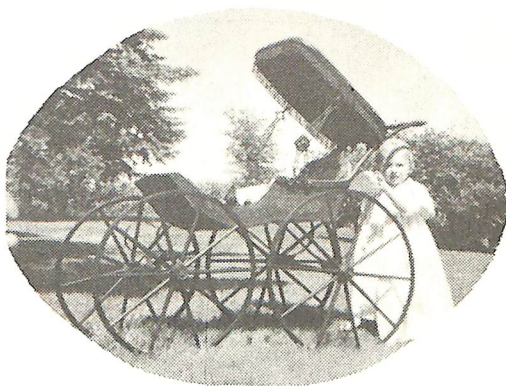
Ina & Jim Hutchison, their
children & grandchildren



Vilas & Ethel Huser



1963
60th anniversary of
Streeper & Edna Hinkle
61st anniversary of
Alden & Anna Borton



1966--Daren Meyers & an 1868 buggy



Mary & Charles Caulkins



Ethel & Lytle Steensen



Esther & Raymond Gerig



Mina & George Gunn

NOTES

Marjorie Hartman can remember that when she was a child she watched the hauling away of the old Presbyterian church bricks. A church was built at Hamer with them. Many years later Clif Hartman helped to clean and haul the bricks from Hamer to West Unity when the Presbyterian church was erected there. She also remembers when graves were moved from the cemetery east of Reuben Hachtel's to the Presbyterian cemetery near her home. She was very frightened.

Alice Gunn entertained the young folks from the class in the back room at a Saturday afternoon Christmas party at her home. Because of the deep snow, the Stacey three (Onalee, Paul, and Donna) picked up Ruth Shoemaker. They arrived in their velvet seated sleigh pulled by their pony, Goldie, who was adorned with many tinkling sleighbells.

Edith Clifton was the last one to use the buggy shed. She came to church by horse and buggy. Later the Stacey pony was tied there numerous times while the children attended Sunday School.

Asher Ely, Jr. married Martha Borton who was a faithful member of the Friend's Church. She attended so constantly that her dog, who always accompanied her, became so used to going that after her death it would start out alone and go to the church. It would remain until after the meeting closed and then return home.

Mr. Axtel's dog always accompanied them to church. One Sunday there was no Baptist meeting and Mr. and Mrs. Axtel went to the Presbyterian church to attend services. When they came to the corners, the dog turned east and went to the Baptist Church alone.

Chicken Dinner----Open to the public----January, 1939. Menu: fried chicken or Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, string beans, corn, perfection salad, rolls, butter, jelly, pickles, pie, and coffee--25¢ per plate.

Once Rev. Rainsberger found that his son and Guy were inattentive during a Revival meeting and called them to the front of the church to sit where he could keep an eye on them.

Ask Orville Gunn about his unfortunate experience when he was approximately three years old. He was attending a class party with his parents in one of the member's home and the older children frightened him.

When Olin Borton first became church treasurer in the 1940's, money was collected from the various classes in small cloth bags. It was then transferred to a tin syrup pail before being turned over to him.

FULTON

COUNTY

100th anniversary of the West Franklin
United Methodist Church, 1875-1975 : and
history of the surrounding area.



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